AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A method of making a coated article, the method comprising:

providing a sputtering target comprising at least one metal;

sputtering a layer structure on a substrate using the target; and

wherein the sputtering includes using a gas comprising from 0.1 to 4.0 sccm oxygen [[gas]] per kW power (sccm/kW) so that the resulting layer structure from using the target is oxidation graded to include top and bottom portions which are more oxidized than a central portion.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the top and bottom portions of the layer structure are each from about 70-100% oxidized and the central portion of the layer structure is from about 0-10% oxidized.

44. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the top and bottom portions of the layer structure are from about 80-100% oxidized and the central portion of the layer structure is from about 0-5% oxidized.

45. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the target comprises at least one of Ni, Cr, Ti and Al.

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the target comprises NiCr, so that the top and bottom portions of the layer structure each comprise $NiCrO_x$ and the central portion of the layer structure comprises NiCr.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

using nitrogen and argon gas in addition to the oxygen [[gas]] during the sputtering so that the top and bottom portions of the layer structure each comprise an oxynitride.

48. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein no other target is used in forming the layer structure.

49. (Original) The method of claim 42, further comprising performing the sputtering using from 0.5 to 2.5 sccm oxygen gas per kW power so that the resulting layer structure formed using the target is oxidation graded to include top and bottom portions which are at least 50% oxidized and a central portion that is no more than about 30% oxidized, and wherein the top and bottom portions may or may not contact the central portion.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49, further comprising performing the sputtering using from 0.5 to 1.5 sccm oxygen gas per kW power so that the resulting layer structure formed using the target is oxidation graded to include top and bottom portions which are at least 50% oxidized and a central portion that is no more than about 30% oxidized, and wherein the top and bottom portions may or may not contact the central portion.

51. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the layer structure is sputtered on the substrate over at least one dielectric layer, and wherein the method further includes sputtering at least one other dielectric layer on the substrate over the layer structure, and wherein the resulting coated article has a ΔE* value (glass side reflective) of less than or equal to 3.5 upon heat treatment.

52-63. (Canceled)

64. (New) A method of making a coated article, the method comprising:

sputtering a first dielectric layer so as to be supported by a glass substrate;

providing a sputtering target comprising at least one metal;

sputtering a layer structure on the substrate over at least the first dielectric layer using the target;

wherein the sputtering includes using a gas comprising from 0.1 to 4.0 sccm oxygen per kW power (sccm/kW) so that the resulting layer structure from using the target is oxidation graded to include top and bottom portions which are more oxidized than a central portion; and

sputtering at least a second dielectric layer on the substrate over at least the layer structure that is oxidation graded.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein at least one of the first and second dielectric layers comprises silicon nitride.

66. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein each of the first and second dielectric layers comprises silicon nitride.

67. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the coated article has a ΔE^* value no greater than 5.0 upon heat treatment.

68. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the coated article has a ΔE^* value no greater than 3.5 upon heat treatment.

69. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the coated article has a ΔE^* value no greater than 2.0 upon heat treatment.

70. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the coated article has a ΔE^* value no greater than 5.0 upon heat treatment.

71. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the coated article has a ΔE^* value no greater than 3.5 upon heat treatment.